

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 15, 18, 19, 21, 26, 28 and 33 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

It is noted with appreciation that the Office Action has indicated that claims 6-14, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24 and 26-35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims. Claims 19, 21, 26, 28 and 33 have been amended to recite "each of said heaters" or "each of said gas burners" for antecedent compatibility with independent claim 15, which recites "separate heaters disposed in said heater boxes". It is submitted that this amendment is a matter of form and not substance and, therefore, does not affect the allowable status of claims 19, 21, 26, 28 and 33.

Claim 18 has also been amended in the same manner as claims 19, 21, 26, 28 and 33 and for the same purpose.

Independent claim 15 has been amended at line 6 to correct an obvious typographical error by changing "a plurality heating zones" to "a plurality of heating zones".

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 15, 18, 20, 23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,341,727 to Dickson, hereafter Dickson.

This rejection is traversed. Dickson discloses a hot oil circulation system that includes a single oil heater 42, supply and return manifolds 46 and 48 and separate heat exchangers 110 associated with separate ones of a plurality of platens 43A-43F. The Examiner contends that the term heater box is so broad

as to read on the oil heater 42. Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the heater box is in physical contact with one side of the platen. Dickson's oil heater 42 is not in physical contact with one side of any of the platens 43A-43F. Therefore, Dickson lacks a heater box disposed in physical contact with one side of the platen as recited in amended independent claim 1. Also, Dickson lacks a heater disposed in a heater box that is in physical contact with one side of the platen as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Dickson lacks a plurality of heater boxes disposed on one side of the platen as recited in independent claim 15. Dickson discloses a plurality of platens 43A-43F (column, lines 7 and 8) each having an associated control valve 49A-49F. Dickson discloses a single oil heater 42 that is shared by the separate platens 43A-43F. The Examiner contends "it should be clear from fig. 12 that having three separate sets of heater controls, there would be three separate heater boxes." This contention is mistaken. Fig. 8 clearly shows a single oil heater 42 for the oil circulation loop, a plurality of oil control valves 49A-49F that are associated with different ones of the platens 43A-43F. It is clear from Figs. 8 and 12 and the accompanying descriptions that at least one of the knobs of each group shown in Fig. 12 is one of the control valves 49A-49F. Thus, Dickson shows a plurality of platens and a single oil heater 42 and not a platen with a plurality of heater boxes disposed on one side of the platen as recited in independent claim 15.

Should Dickson's heat exchangers 110 be considered to be heater boxes, Dickson would lack "separate heaters disposed in said heater boxes" as recited in independent claim 15.

For the reason set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 1-5, 15, 18, 20, 23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Dickson is obviated by the amendment to independent claim 1 and erroneous as to independent claim 15 and should be withdrawn.

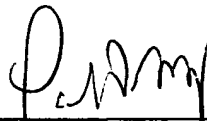
It is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth above that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn, that claims 1-35 be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that this amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and passed to issue. If this amendment is deemed to not place the application in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that it be entered for the purpose of appeal.

Respectfully Submitted,

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